



**Testimony before the Public Health Committee  
March 4, 2019**

**SB 921, AN ACT PERMITTING CONCERNING THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF ADVANCED  
PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES**

**SUPPORT**

Chairman Abrams and Chairman Steinberg; Senator Somers and Representative Petit, and members of the Committee:

My name is Nathan Tinker, and I am Chief Executive of the Connecticut Pharmacists Association which represents more than 1,000 pharmacists, technicians, and students across all sectors of the pharmacy industry in Connecticut. I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB 921, An Act Concerning the Scope of Practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, and particularly Section 28 which pertains to collaborative practice agreements (CPAs) between APRNs and pharmacists.

**CPAs Have Been Successfully Utilized for Over 13 Years**

Collaborative practice agreements create a formal practice relationship between pharmacists and other health care practitioners, whereby the pharmacist assumes responsibility for specific patient care functions that are otherwise beyond their typical “scope of practice,” but aligned with their education and training, including initiation and modification of drug therapy. In Connecticut, such authority between pharmacists and doctors has been in place since 2006, and since then more than 25 different types of CPA protocols have been established: SB 921 simply and efficiently extends the CPA relationship to include Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

**CPAs Can Make Healthcare More Efficient and Less Expensive**

Pharmacists are the most visible, and local, healthcare professional that most people interact with—most people visit their pharmacist up to 30 times per year, as opposed to only 2-4 visits with their physician. This provides pharmacists with unique insight and connection to the patients they serve. Just as these agreements have done with doctors, CPAs with APRNs can free up APRNs for other work, expand drug therapy options, and enable higher service quality. They can also help to which reduce the number of visits a patient has to make—which has been shown to lower costs and to increase medication adherence.

**“Pharmacists Are Ideal Professionals to Work With”**

As APRNs become more and more central to patient care, especially in underserved areas, the opportunity for APRNs and pharmacists to work together is becoming ever more urgent. Last year, JPN, The Journal of Nurse Practitioners published a series of articles looking at collaborative agreements between pharmacists and APRNs in a variety of practice settings. Their conclusions showed there is a need for improved medication management, particularly in primary care, and that “pharmacists are ideal professionals to work with in this area.”<sup>1</sup>

We couldn’t agree more.

Nathan Tinker  
CEO  
Connecticut Pharmacists Association

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<sup>1</sup> Kylee A. Funk, PharmD, BCPS, Alexandra Paffrath, PharmD, Jane K. Anderson, DNP, FNP, ANP. Pharmacist and Nurse Practitioner Collaboration in Nurse-managed Health Clinic. JNP. June 2017Volume 13, Issue 6, Pages e273–e276